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DRIVER IC FOR USE WITH SIMPLE MICROCONTROL

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A driver circuit for driving a switching circuit driving a load, e.g., a gas discharge lamp, the drive circuit comprising an input trigger circuit receiving a pulsed input signal for controlling the generation of two drive signals, a first drive signal driving a high side switch of a half bridge switching circuit and a second drive signal driving a low side switch of the half bridge switching circuit, a circuit for providing a dead time between the first and second drive signals whereby both the first and second drive signals are substantially zero, the input trigger circuit generating a control signal for controlling the generation of the first and second drive signals based on a characteristic of the pulsed input signal and first and second drive circuits for providing the first and second drive signals.